

14 May 2014

Addendum to USARAK Regulation 350-2, Range Safety

Change 4 pertaining to Paragraph 4.2, Seasonal Fire Restrictions, Ammunition Restrictions

Changed to read:

#### **4.2. Seasonal Fire Hazard, Ammunition Restrictions**

a. General. Seasonal fire hazards caused by dry weather may restrict use of tracer and other potentially incendiary ammunition. Units using ranges, training facilities, and training areas are responsible for knowing the daily fire index and adhering to the restrictions in this section. This information is available from the applicable Range Control office. Regardless of the season, trainers must ensure that flame-producing pyrotechnics are not used on or near fuels that may start a forest or range fire. Range fires may occur at any time of the year on any range. Fires are most likely to occur on ranges where tracers are incorporated; units should consider using the bulk of their tracer during the winter months. Throwing away cigarettes, matches, or other burning materials is prohibited. Unit personnel desiring to fire any type of incendiary ammunition or use pyrotechnics will obtain clearance from Range Control prior to firing. Personnel conducting training will also contact Range Control daily to learn what FWI is in effect.

b. Fire Weather Index (FWI). The FWI is based on multiple components associated with the Canadian Fire Danger Rating System (CFDRS). The Installation Fire Chiefs have the responsibility for the computation and dissemination of the fire index on a daily basis during fire season. It is disseminated through coordinated distribution daily; is valid for 24 hours (1200 to 1200 hrs). Range Control has responsibility for notifying units currently training of the daily FWI; any Red Flag warnings issued and will post the daily FWI outside the entrance to Range Control. During elevated fire weather indices, Range Managers with concerns that training may require a fire fighting support will contact the appropriate fire department's dispatch to check department preparedness levels.

(1) Installation Fire Departments will disseminate the FWI prior to 0930 hrs daily through the coordinated distribution contact list. Installation Fire Departments have the responsibility to ensure that the coordinated distribution contact list is kept current. An increase to the current FWI has the potential to affect training; units can operate under the previous FWI until 1200 hrs. At 1201 hrs, units will conduct training operations IAW the current FWI restrictions. Installation Fire Departments will immediately notify Range Control when any Red Flag Warnings or Fire Weather Watches are issued that will potentially impact training operations.

(2) The specific methodology for computation of the fire weather index and other technical aspects of this program will be coordinated annually in a memorandum of agreement between the USARAK G3, the Bureau of Land Management, and the respective Installation Fire Chiefs; with an annual suspense of 1 April. The four fire index categories are low, moderate, high, and extreme; an additional qualifier is the "Red Flag" warning which can escalate the FWI and adversely affect training. **A Red Flag Warning, also known as a Fire Weather Warning, is a forecast warning issued by the United States National Weather Service to inform area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildland fire ignition and rapid propagation. Any training with incendiary type munitions will cease immediately and will not be used until the Red Flag Warning expires; units must obtain clearance from Range Control prior to resuming use of incendiary and pyrotechnic munitions.**

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(3) The Red Flag Warning is an additional Command level advisory which may adversely impact training. A Red Flag Warning is predictive and is issued when critical weather conditions occur or are expected to occur within a 24 hour period. These conditions include: Strong Wind ( $\geq 25$  MPH and  $RH \leq 30\%$ ), Low Humidity ( $\leq 15\%$ ), Low Humidity and Strong Winds, or Dry Thunderstorms. Strong Winds are defined as frequent gusts or sustained winds for one hour or more. Fire Weather Watches are advisories issued by BLM which indicate imminent Red Flag Warning conditions; does not require any action beyond a planning awareness. Upon receipt of a Red Flag Warning, unit training events will comply with restrictions directed under Extreme FWI conditions.

c. Restrictions. These restrictions apply to all authorized users of USARAK ranges. All references to Air Force and other air deployed ordnance restrictions apply to all delivery platforms and the foreign equivalents of these weapon systems. Questions regarding these restrictions, including restrictions on any specific type of ammunition, should be directed to the appropriate Army Range Control. "Red Flag" Warning can escalate the FWI and adversely affect training. Any training with incendiary type munitions will cease immediately and will not be used until the Red Flag Warning expires. Units must then obtain clearance from Range Control prior to resuming use of incendiary and pyrotechnic munitions. **Waivers under Extreme FWI and Red Flag conditions will only be considered by exception; the Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) United States Army Alaska (USARAK) is the final adjudication authority.**

(1) **Low.** No restrictions.

(2) **Moderate.** Units must adhere to the following mitigation measures to train at Moderate FWI.

(a) All ground units will carry firefighting equipment IAW paragraph 4-2 e (2).

(b) Ball and Blank Ammunition can be used without restrictions.

(c) Tracer and M918 TP (MK19) ammunition is authorized on the Small Arms Complexes, FWA and RTA DMPTR after prescribed burns, unless otherwise restricted.

(d) Pyrotechnics are prohibited unless they are burned in a container or area cleared of vegetation that completely contains all burning elements of the device. An example of this would be using a cut off standard steel 55 gallon drum to contain a smoke grenade. Any device used will be observed until the device is completely burned and no external fires have been started.

(e) Demolitions (inc. hand grenades) are authorized on approved demolition ranges only.

(f) Artillery and mortars can be used in dedicated impact areas unless otherwise restricted. Short Range Training ammunition can be used when approved in established SDZs, located at:

- (FWA) IPBC and Grizzly Battle Course
- (DTA) Attu Battle Area Complex (BAX), Tennessee Collective Training Range (CTR)
- (RTA) Mahon Range, Infantry Platoon and Squad Courses and Digital Multipurpose Training Range

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(g) Air Deployed Ordnance/Air Force restrictions.

1) Countermeasure flares or foreign equivalent will be deployed above 1,500 feet above ground level.

2) Inert ordnance without a spotting charge and cold spot BDU-33s will be used in dedicated impact area.

3) Ground Illumination flares must burn out above 1500 feet.

4) Live ordnances, i.e. HE may be used in the dedicated impact areas unless otherwise restricted.

5) High risk incendiary ordnance "such as" AGM 65 Maverick, 2.75 Rockets and Target Practice Incendiary (TPI) are prohibited.

(3) **High.**

(a) All ground units will carry firefighting equipment IAW paragraph 4-2 e (2).

(b) Ball and Blank Ammunition can be used without restrictions.

(c) Tracer and M918 TP (MK19) ammunition is prohibited for use in all areas with the exception of the Small Arms Complexes on approval of waiver. RTA no .50 caliber tracers or M918 TP (MK19) ammunition will be used on Statler Range.

(d) Pyrotechnics are prohibited unless they are burned in a container or area cleared of vegetation that completely contains all burning elements of the device. An example of this would be using a cut off standard steel 55 gallon drum to contain a smoke grenade. Any device used will be observed until the device is completely burned, and no external fires have been started.

(e) Demolitions (inc. hand grenades) are authorized on approved demolition ranges only.

(f) Artillery and mortars are restricted to **HE** in the Washington, Mississippi, Delta Creek and Stuart Creek dedicated impact areas unless otherwise prohibited. (Without waiver)

(g) Air Deployed Ordnance/Air Force restrictions.

1) Countermeasure flares or foreign equivalent will be deployed above 5,000 feet above ground level.

2) Inert ordnance without a spotting charge and cold spot BDU-33s will be used in dedicated impact areas.

3) Ground Illumination flares must burn out above 5000 feet.

4) Live ordnances, i.e. HE may only be used in the, Mississippi, Delta Creek and Stuart Creek dedicated impact areas unless otherwise restricted.

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5) High risk incendiary ordnance "such as" AGM 65 Maverick, 2.75 Rockets and Target Practice Incendiary (TPI) are prohibited. (Without waiver)

(4) **Extreme.**

(a) **Waivers under Extreme FWI and Red Flag conditions will only be considered by exception; the Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) United States Army Alaska (USARAK) is the final approval authority.**

(b) All Ground units will carry firefighting equipment IAW paragraph 4-2 e (2).

(c) Ball and Blank Ammunition can be used without restrictions.

(d) Tracer and M918 TP (MK19) ammunition is prohibited for use in all areas.

(e) Pyrotechnics are prohibited. (Without waiver)

(f) Demolitions (inc. hand grenades) are prohibited except on approved demolition ranges. (Without waiver)

(g) Artillery and mortars are prohibited. (Without waiver)

(h) Air Deployed Ordnance/Air Force restrictions.

1) Countermeasure flares or foreign equivalent will be deployed above 5,000 feet above ground level.

2) Inert ordnance without a spotting charge and cold spot BDU-33's will be used in dedicated impact areas.

3) Ground Illumination flares prohibited. (Without waiver)

4) Live ordnances, i.e. HE prohibited. (Without waiver)

5) High risk incendiary ordnance "such as" AGM 65 Maverick, 2.75 Rockets and Target Practice Incendiary (TPI) are prohibited. (Without waiver)

d. Reporting. Anyone observing a fire of any size, in any range or training area will report it immediately to Range Control by one of the following methods:

(1) Range Control frequency (FM 38.30).

(2) Installation fire department - Dial 911 at all locations.

(3) Range Control has responsibility for ensuring the fire department is notified of all fire starts regardless of size.

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e. Preparedness.

(1) Training. Units are required to conduct and maintain proficiency or basic firefighting techniques to assist as required during the active fire season. The Installation Fire Chiefs are the proponents for providing introductory training on safety, proper fire-fighting techniques, and fire behavior as requested. This training is only familiarization and does not fully qualify Soldiers to engage in firefighting activities; it allows them to be the initial responders on range fires that they initiate. Units will respond immediately to starts in order to contain them to less than 100 square feet. If a fire breeches 100 square feet, unit Commanders/Range OICs will reevaluate fire fighting options.

(2) Equipment. During critical fire periods, all units using ranges or training areas will carry fire-fighting materials. Proper fire-fighting tools include, but are not limited to Pulaskis, beaters, portable water extinguishers, and a water supply such as full water trailers or drums. Units will be prepared to assist in suppressing small range fires (up to 100 square feet) that might occur in the training areas.

(3) Applicability. The requirements for training and having equipment on hand is intended for personnel who are at risk of being involved in fire fighting activities.

f. Fire-fighting actions.

(1) No one is authorized to enter a Permanent Impact Area to fight fires. Exceptions for consideration will be by direct coordination with the Range Manager.

(2) On ranges where dud-producing ammunition is used, fires will be reported to range operations (see paragraph d above). Training activities will be stopped.

(3) On all other ranges and training areas, the Range OIC will report the fire to range operations. For small fires (see paragraph 4.2 e (2) above), with Range Control's authorization, dispatch troops to fight the fire.

(4) The Range OIC will exercise judgment to ensure the fire does not endanger unit personnel. The Range OIC will ensure control of weapons, ammunition, and government property is not lost and evacuation of these items is possible if the fire becomes a hazard.

(5) Once a representative from the fire department or responding fire agency arrives on the scene, they assume command of the situation. The unit will take direction from the incident fire commander; incident commanders will not further employ Soldiers who are not "Red Card" qualified for direct fire fighting activities.

g. Aviation Support.

(1) **USARAK G3 tasks Aviation assets, (if available in Alaska) to maintain water buckets, equipment and qualified crews to support firefighting efforts as requested by the Installation Fire Chiefs during High and Extreme FWI, as well as, during periods when Red Flag warning conditions exist.**

(2) The Installation Fire Chief has coordination authority to ensure helicopter has serviceable and functional BAMBI Buckets appropriate to their specific airframe. Fire Chiefs will coordinate an inspection visit with the Commander of involved lift units to disseminate unit response requirements, ensure serviceability of equipment, lessons learned and assist the units' preparation for the upcoming fire season as appropriate. Unless otherwise approved, military aviation assets will only be employed within the installation boundaries.

h. Waivers. Waivers to the FWI restrictions Moderate, High, Extreme and Red Flag warnings will be evaluated by the appropriate approval authority. Commanders will consider all impacts of the unit's actions under waived conditions. Units can be liable for any cost associated with responding to a fire under a waiver. A risk analysis will be completed as part of the decision to request a waiver. When the OIC/RSO signs for the range, Range Control will remind them that it is their responsibility to submit the request for FWI waiver daily, as required. Training activities that impact the overall readiness of the command will be considered for waiver. Waivers to the above FWI level restrictions may be requested per the following:

(1) Waiver Authority.

(a) **The USARAK G3 is the approval authority for MODERATE and HIGH FWI conditions; may disapprove waivers under EXTREME FWI conditions.**

(b) **The USARAK Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) is the only approval authority for EXTREME FWI and RED FLAG condition waivers; these waivers will only be considered by exception.**

(2) Electronic Waiver.

(a) All Waiver requests are processed through Range Control to the USARAK G3 Training Support Services, Installation Range Office (USARAK G3, TSS, IRO) for the USARAK G3. USARAK G3 will coordinate the staffing for Extreme FWI and Red Flag conditions to the USARAK DCO. Requests for a FWI Waiver will be submitted electronically through the appropriate Range Control Facility for processing. The electronic format for the waiver articulates the units' request and tracks the process for final consideration.

(b) The electronic version of this form is located on the front page of each Range Control website, the G3 Portal, and in the RFMSS library (Sample of waiver, Figure 4-1). Units will update waivers daily and submit as required by FWI changes; forward electronically to the appropriate Range Control for processing.

(3) Electronic Waiver Process (Flow Chart, Figure 4-2).

(a) Unit to Range Control: Requests will be signed by Brigade Commander or their designated representative and emailed to appropriate Range Control for their mitigation considerations. Units will not send waiver requests directly to Fire Department for action. The request must state the specific area of operations, restrictions to be waived, unit intentions, munitions to be used, unit recommended mitigation for permission to fire and a statement to the effect that the unit has required firefighting equipment on hand.

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(b) Range Control to Fire Dept. Officials: Range Control will annotate the waiver with considerations regarding the training to be conducted and any other mitigation factors which may aid the Duty Chiefs in formulating their recommendation.

(c) Fire Dept to Range Control: The Fire Officials will return the digitally signed waiver with recommendation directly to Range Control. A statement should be added to define the Fire Officials basis for recommendation, such as effectiveness of a prescribed burn, sufficient firefighting equipment and manpower to respond as required.

(d) Range Control to Installation Range Office (IRO): IRO will forward the document to the USARAK G3, who will consider Moderate and High FWI's and approve as appropriate; may disapprove waivers for Extreme or "Red Flag", as conditions require and return the document to the IRO for dissemination. Should the G3 deem a waiver under Extreme/"Red Flag" conditions be considered for approval, the G3 will forward to the USARAK DCO for consideration.

(e) Once the G3 renders a decision or receives the DCO's decision, the G3 will return the waiver to the IRO for action. The IRO will then return the signed document to Range Control for dissemination to the unit, and the supporting Installation Fire Department.

(4) The Installation Fire Chief is responsible for disseminating waiver decisions to all other concerned agencies. Waivers are valid until 1200 hours the following day only; unless a Red Flag Warning is issued, at which time a unit will submit a new request addressing the updated conditions. Blanket waivers for the duration of training events will not be granted.

(5) Request for waivers will not be processed until the FWI is posted for the day of training.

(6) Weekend waivers will follow the same routing process, with the exception that request will be verbally communicated from Range Control to IRO who will contact the COC. The COC will contact the G3 with information provided by the IRO. Once a decision is reached, the G3 will contact the COC who will forward the decision to the IRO. The IRO will contact the appropriate Range Control with the decision and ensure the form is annotated accordingly.

**NOTE:** Addendum, Change 4, to USARAK Regulation 350-2, Range Safety, dated 6 July 2011, paragraph 4.2, Seasonal Fire Restrictions, Ammunition Restrictions, is posted as written by order of the USARAK G3/5/7. This change supersedes paragraph 4.2 Seasonal Fire Hazards, Ammunition Restrictions as published in all previous editions of USARAK Regulation 350-2, Range Safety. Effective date: 14 May 2014.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
(Unit Address)

(OFFICE SYMBOL)

(Date)

MEMORANDUM FOR United States Army, Alaska G3/DCO

SUBJECT: Request for Fire Weather Index (FWI) Waiver

1. The FWI today at (Select one) is (Select one).
2. Training Event Parameters.
  - a. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Location: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Types of Ammunition, pyrotechnics, or simulators required for training: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Fire-fighting equipment on hand (IAW USARAK Regulation 350-2, Para 4-2 e. (2)): (Select one) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Impact upon training and unit readiness if waiver is not granted: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The point of contact for this Memo is \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signature Brigade Commander or BDE CMD Designated Rep)

Range Control mitigation considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Endorsement

Fire Chief recommends (Select one) of this waiver. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Endorsement

G3 (Select one) this waiver for training under (Select one) conditions. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Endorsement

DCO (Select one) this waiver for training under (Select one) conditions. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Figure 4-1. Sample FWI Waiver**

**NOTE:** The link to the electronic version of this form is located on the front page of each Range Control website, the G3 Portal, and in the RFMSS library.

## WAIVER PROCESS

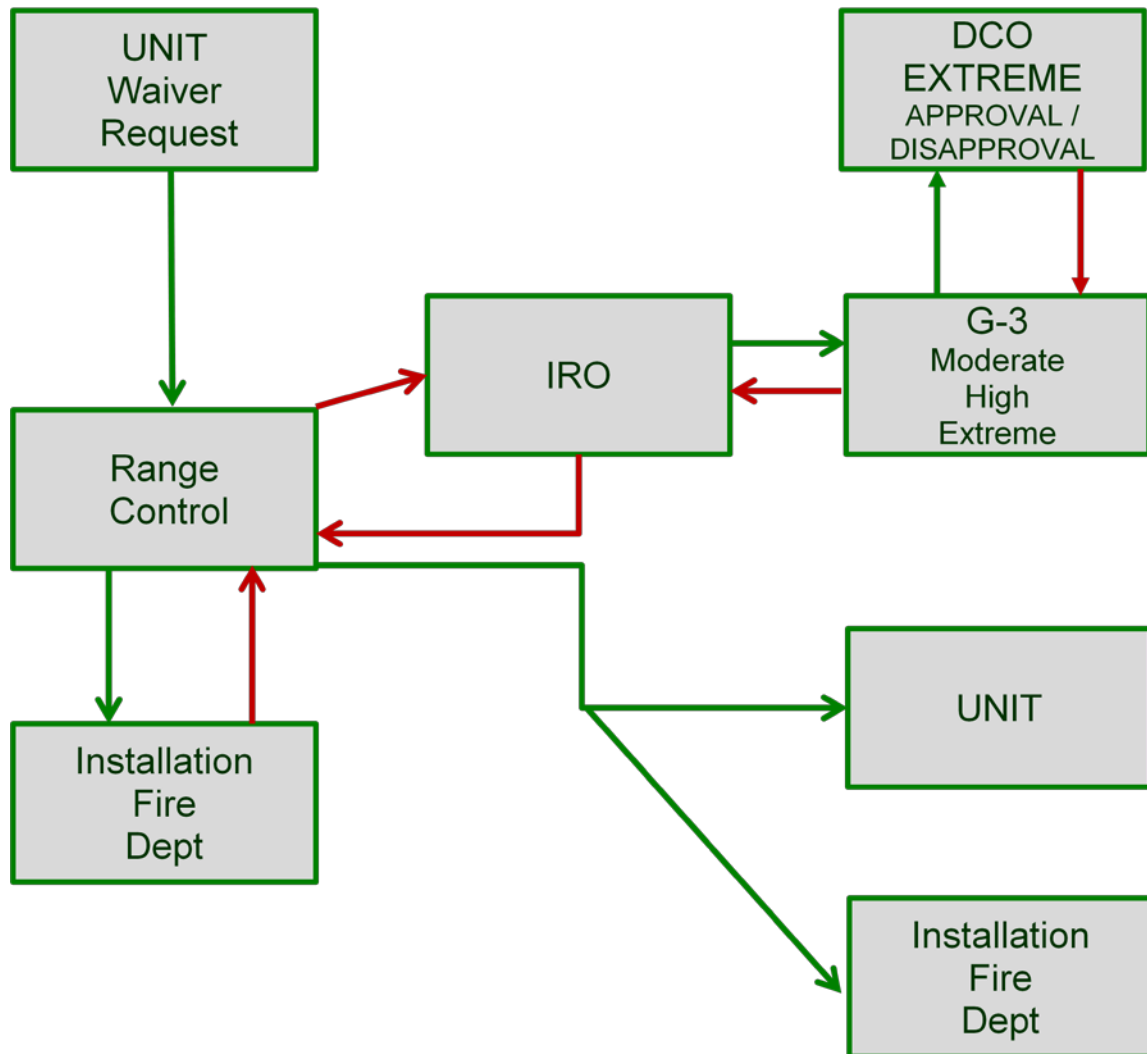


Figure 4-2. FWI Process Flow Chart